Recommendations by Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry

2237. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been suggested by the Confederation of India Food Trade and Industry for the exploitation of food processing units in the country; and

(b) whether Government are evolving a long term national policy on development of promotion and exports from food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Suggestions of the Confederation of Indian Food Trade & Industry for development of food processing industries inter-alis include reductions of taxes and duties, provision of land, organising fairs and exhibitions, concessional electricity tariff for post-harvest operations, development of processed food complexes and setting up of technology missions by State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Stretch of Four Laning

2238. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the likely stretch of 4 laning that can be taken up in the 8th Five year Plan as per present indication of funds available;

(b) how many kms. would then remain two laned; and

(c) what traffic in terms of CVD and PUC on these two laned section would be catering to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During the last three years of 8th Plan, a length of about 538 km. of National Highways has been sanactioned for four laning. In the remaining two years of the 8th Plan, a further length of about 426 km. is likely to be taken up for four laning.

(b) After completion of the envisaged four laning and the four laning already in progress, a length of about 24700 km. would still remain as two lane.

(c) As per the norms, the two lane section of highways cater to a traffic of 15000 PCUs per day.

Sudanese Foreign Minister's Statement on Kashmir

2239. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the Statement made by the Sudanese Foreign Minister on Kashmir during his visit to India that India should explain its stand properly to O.I.C. member countries;

(b) what are the steps taken to counter the propaganda of Pakistan that Kashmir issue is an Islamic issue before in O.I.C. countries and not a bilateral issue; and

(c) whether any delegations of Muslim NGOs have been sent to O.I.C. member countries to counter this propaganda and if so, the number of such delegations sent and the countries visited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has made clear its position on Kashmir to all friendly countries, including member countries of the Organisation of Islamic conference. The governments of these countries have been kept regularly informed of the facts which have also been made available on a regular basis to all sections of public opinion, media etc. in the countries concerned. Moreover, India follows a

transparent policy and has invited Resident Ambassadors in Delhi including those representing member countries of the OIC to visit Kashmir if they wish to do so.

(c) No, Sir.

Officials Joining with Multi National Companies

2240. SHRI PARMASHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some senior level technical and other officials upto Secretary level, of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and its attached/subordinate offices have joined the big industrial houses and multinationals engage in the Oil Exploration and in setting up of refineries, on retirement or resigning or by taking pre-mature retirements; and

(b) if so, how many of such officers have joined such companies during the last five years, within two years of their leaving government service and on what basis the requisite government permission was granted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Target fixed for Lucknow Plan

2241. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding "Lucknow plan" and the targets fixed to be achieved by 2001 A.D. in that regard; and

(b) the work completed so far and whether entire work in accordance with targets fixed is likely to be achieved by 2001 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the 20-Year Road Development Plan (1981—2001) drawn by the Indian Roads Congress which is a registered society under the Registration Act of 1860. The recommendations/targets enunciated in this Plan document are basically recommendatory in nature and are intended to serve an reference for the formulation of the Five Year Plans etc.

Passport issued/pending in Passport Offices of Bihar

2242. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Passport Offices/ Regional Passport Offices are presently functioning in Bihar;

(b) how many passports were issued by these offices during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the average time taken by these offices to issue passports after receiving applications;

(d) how many passport applications are pending in these offices for six months and above; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) There is one Passport Office in the state of Bihar at Patna.

(b) The total number of passports issued by Passport Office, Patna during the last three years was: 36,400 in 1992; 46,608 in 1993; and 70,521 in 1994.